

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 28-29

NEWSWEEK
30 April 1979

NEWSWEEK



U.S. monitoring station in Turkey: How long will it take to replace the two that were lost?

SALT SKIRMISH

Anatoly Dobrynin glided up to the State Department in his midnight-blue Cadillac Fleetwood one afternoon late last week. He spent an hour with Cyrus Vance talking about the pending strategic arms limitation treaty. Before the meeting broke up, the Soviet ambassador and the Secretary of State agreed to meet again the next day—their fourth session in two weeks. For months, there have been repeated predictions that the U.S. and the Soviet Union were on the verge of a new arms pact. The quickened pace of the talks last week suggested that this time a SALT II agreement truly could be imminent.

With or without an initialed pact, Jimmy Carter was planning to emerge from a leisure-heavy Easter vacation this week with SALT at the top of his agenda. White House aides had hoped that Carter could announce the successful conclusion of negotiations in a midweek New York City speech to the nation's newspaper publishers. But at least one more round of talks was required, and U.S. officials later said that every comma might not be in place until the end of this week, or even a bit later.

The initialing of the treaty will mark the formal start of a national debate over SALT II, and will provide a grueling test of Jimmy Carter's ability to lead. It promises to touch off a confrontation between Congress and the President—and an examination of the pluses and minuses of détente that will determine the course of relations between the two superpowers for years.

The latest skirmish in the

SALT battle erupted last week over the leaking of secret testimony on the sensitive subject of verification. The shouting match began when The New York Times quoted an unidentified senator's version of a closed-door Congressional briefing by CIA director Stansfield Turner. According to the senator, Turner had said that it would take until 1984 to duplicate completely the capability for monitoring Soviet missile tests that was lost with the shutdown of two electronic listening stations in Iran.

POWELL TO THE ATTACK: Hours after the Times story appeared, Reuters reported that Republican Sen. Jake Garn of Utah was the source of the leak—which Garn denied—and Presidential press secretary Jody Powell went on the offensive. He called the Times report an "inaccurate" and "distorted" presentation of Turner's views. Another

top White House aide charged that Garn was playing loose with the country's national security. "It's fair game to attack SALT," he said. "But when you start politicizing our intelligence capability, which is what Garn did, that's stepping over the bounds."

Powell kept Carter informed—by memo—of the leak and the counterattack, but said that he had no feedback on the furor from the President. Carter was in the midst of an eight-day holiday on Georgia's Sapelo Island, and the emphasis definitely was on get away from it all. Carter read ("Death in the Afternoon," "The Plague Dogs"), watched old movies ("North by Northwest," "Rebel Without a Cause"), jogged, fished and gathered seashells with Amy. He kept abreast of daily intelligence reports, but no one pretended it was a working vacation.

Brezhnev (lower right) helps re-elect himself President: Too weak to come to the U.S.?

